Practice Session 6: Ansible automation tool

Make sure that you have already gone through Lab-05

Ansible is a simple automation engine that automates cloud provisioning, configuration management, application deployment, intra-service orchestration, and many other needs. It uses the YAML language that you have used in Lab-02, in the form of Ansible Playbooks, and that allows you to describe your automation jobs in a way that approaches plain English. The aim of this lab is to get acquainted with the Ansible automation tool and get to know its most commonly used commands.

Introduction to Ansible

Ansible works by connecting to your nodes and pushing out small programs, called "Ansible modules" to them. These programs are written to be resource models of the desired state of the system. Ansible then executes these modules (over SSH by default) and removes them when finished.

References

Referred documents and websites contain supportive information for the practice.

Manuals

- 1. How Ansible works
- 2. <u>Demo of this lab</u> (from last year). This may not have very exact steps.

Exercise 1. Installation and basic configuration of Ansible v2.12.

The goal of this task is to get acquainted with the installation of Ansible using pip and configure the ansible to manage other virtual machines remotely.

Note: you can use your local machine, but we recommend using the existing virtual machine (k8s-controller VM) instead.

Ansible on k8s-controller VM

Ansible can be installed on Centos using pip

- The ansible installation is already carried out in *Lab 04 Kubernetes*, So no need to install ansible again here.
- Login to k8s-controller VM

Check ansible version

```
o ansible --version
```

```
[centos@shiva-k8-controller ~]$ ansible --version
ansible [core 2.12.5]
config file = None
configured module search path = ['/home/centos/.ansible/plugins/modules', '/usr/share/ansible/plugins/modules']
ansible python module location = /home/centos/.local/lib/python3.9/site-packages/ansible
ansible collection location = /home/centos/.ansible/collections:/usr/share/ansible/collections
executable location = /home/centos/.local/bin/ansible
python version = 3.9.13 (main, Jun 9 2022, 00:00:00) [GCC 11.3.1 20220421 (Red Hat 11.3.1-2)]
jinja version = 2.11.3
libyaml = True
```

List all the ansible hosts ansible --list-hosts all

Sample Output:

```
[centos@shiva-k8-controller ~]$ ansible --list-hosts all
[WARNING]: No inventory was parsed, only implicit localhost is available
[WARNING]: provided hosts list is empty, only localhost is available. Note that the implicit localhost does not match
'all'
hosts (0):
```

• List localhost hosts ansible --list-hosts localhost

Sample Output:

```
[centos@shiva-k8-controller ~]$ ansible --list-hosts localhost
[WARNING]: No inventory was parsed, only implicit localhost is available
hosts (1):
   localhost
```

Exercise 2. Basic Ansible commands

The aim of this task is to make you familiar with the basic ansible commands.

2.1. Ansible Hosts/inventories file

Inventories: Ansible works against multiple managed nodes or "hosts" in your infrastructure at the same time, using a list or group of lists known as inventory. You can specify a different inventory file at the command line using the -i <path> option. For more information on inventory follow here....

Try executing the ansible --version. Sample output of ansible --version command:

```
[centos@k8s-controller-chinmaya ~]$ ansible --version
ansible [core 2.12.5]
  config file = None
  configured module search path = ['/home/centos/.ansible/plugins/modules', '/usr/share/ansible/plugins/modules']
  ansible python module location = /home/centos/.local/lib/python3.9/site-packages/ansible
  ansible collection location = /home/centos/.ansible/collections:/usr/share/ansible/collections
  executable location = /home/centos/.local/bin/ansible
  python version = 3.9.9 (main, Nov 22 2021, 00:00:00) [GCC 11.2.1 20211019 (Red Hat 11.2.1-6)]
  jinja version = 2.11.3
  libyaml = True
```

From ansible ——list—hosts all and ansible ——list—hosts localhost commands, all and localhost are some groups of machines with related information that are expected to be present in default inventory file.

Create a directory mkdir ~/inventory && cd inventory and Now let's create hosts.yaml file
vi hosts.yaml and copy the following content. Make sure that you are in the k8s-controller
VM.

```
[k8s-master]
master ansible_host=\frac{172.17.90.157}{172.17.90.157} ansible_port=22 ansible_user=centos
ansible_ssh_private_key_file=/home/centos/.ssh/chinmayadehury.pem

[k8s-workers]
worker1 ansible_host=\frac{172.17.88.115}{172.17.88.115} ansible_port=22 ansible_user=centos
ansible_ssh_private_key_file=/home/centos/.ssh/chinmayadehury.pem

worker2 ansible_host=\frac{172.17.88.115}{172.17.88.115} ansible_port=22 ansible_user=centos
ansible_ssh_private_key_file=/home/centos/.ssh/chinmayadehury.pem
```

- Modify with your key name instead of chinmayadehury
- Change the IPs of master and workers with k8s-master and k8s-worker1, k8s-worker2 (highlighted above)
- **[k8s-master]** is the custom tag used to group your VM(s) and it can be changed.
- Here, hosts.yaml file contains the required information such as username or private_key or port are
 used to connect to the other VMs (i.e. k8s-master and k8s-worker1, k8s-worker2) over ssh.

note: Writing \$HOME instead of /home/centos in the hosts.yaml inventory file may not work.

 The hosts.yaml can also have the hostname or the IP address of other VMs. Use can use either of one. An example of minimal version of an inventory file would look like below:

```
[iotusecase]
172.17.90.248
172.17.91.168
172.17.89.193
```

2.2. Basic tasks using Ansible

The ansible command defines and runs a single task **playbook** against a set of hosts. The ansible-doc <module-name> is a handy command to know more about a specific module.

 Now let's ping all servers in k8s-master and k8s-worker group ansible -m ping k8s-master -i hosts.yaml

Sample Output:

```
[centos@shiva-k8-controller ~]$ ansible -m ping k8s-master -i hosts.yaml
[WARNING]: Invalid characters were found in group names but not replaced, use -vvvv to see details
master | SUCCESS => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/bin/python3"
    },
    "changed": false,
    "ping": "pong"
}
```

NOTE: ping module is useful from /usr/bin/ansible to verify the ability to login and that a usable Python is configured. This is NOT ICMP ping, this is just a trivial test module that requires Python on the remote-node.

More about ping module:

https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/collections/ansible/builtin/ping_module.html

Execute pwd command in all servers in k8s-workers group

```
ansible -m command -a "pwd" k8s-workers -i hosts.yaml
```

Sample Output:

```
[centos@shiva-k8-controller ~]$ ansible -m command -a "pwd" k8s-workers -i hosts.yaml
[WARNING]: Invalid characters were found in group names but not replaced, use -vvvv to see details
worker2 | CHANGED | rc=0 >>
/home/centos
worker1 | CHANGED | rc=0 >>
/home/centos
```

NOTE: The given command with -a "command name" option will be executed on all selected nodes.

More about command module:

https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/collections/ansible/builtin/command module.html

Execute 1s command in all servers in k8s-workers group

```
ansible -m command -a "ls" k8s-workers -i hosts.yaml
```

Sample Output:

```
[centos@shiva-k8-controller ~]$ ansible -m command -a "ls" k8s-workers -i hosts.yaml
[WARNING]: Invalid characters were found in group names but not replaced, use -vvvv to see details
worker2 | CHANGED | rc=0 >>
devops20221ab06
devops20221ab06updated
docker-compose.yaml
gitlab-runner_amd64.rpm
hosts.yaml
install-app.yaml
kubespray
swagger
worker1 | CHANGED | rc=0 >>
data
```

• Execute 1s command in all servers in k8s-workers group with a private key. Change the private key name according to your ssh key name with **chinmayadehury**

```
ansible -m command --private-key <a href="mailto:ssh/chinmayadehury">.ssh/chinmayadehury</a> -a "ls" k8s-workers -i hosts.yaml <a href="mailto:sample Output">Sample Output</a>:
```

```
[centos@shiva-k8-controller ~]$ ansible -m command -a "ls" k8s-workers -i hosts.yaml
[WARNING]: Invalid characters were found in group names but not replaced, use -vvvv to see details
worker2 | CHANGED | rc=0 >>
devops2022lab06
devops2022lab06updated
docker-compose.yaml
gitlab-runner_amd64.rpm
hosts.yaml
install-app.yaml
kubespray
swagger
worker1 | CHANGED | rc=0 >>
data
```

Create a directory in the remote VM using command module:

```
ansible -m command -a "mkdir /home/centos/mydir1" k8s-workers -i
hosts.yaml
```

NOTE: here k8s-workers is a hosts group.

Sample Output:

```
[centos@lab01-controller inventory]$ ansible -m command -a "mkdir /home/centos/mydir1" k8s-workers -i hosts.yaml
[WARNING]: Invalid characters were found in group names but not replaced, use -vvvv to see details
worker1 | CHANGED | rc=0 >>
```

Create a directory in the remote VM using file module:

```
ansible -m file -a "path=/home/centos/mydir2 state=directory" k8s-workers
-i hosts.yaml
```

NOTE: Here again I am using a k8s-workers host group (similar to iotusecase).

Sample Output:

```
[centos@lab01-controller inventory]$ ansible -m file -a "path=/home/centos/mydir2 state=directory" k8s-workers -i hosts
.yaml
[WARNING]: Invalid characters were found in group names but not replaced, use -vvvv to see details
worker1 | CHANGED => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/bin/python3"
    },
    "changed": true,
    "gid": 1000,
    "group": "centos",
    "mode": "0775",
    "owner": "centos",
    "path": "/home/centos/mydir2",
    "secontext": "unconfined_u:object_r:user_home_t:s0",
    "size": 6,
    "state": "directory",
    "uid": 1000
}
```

More about file module:

https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/collections/ansible/builtin/file module.html

• Transfer a file from local VM to the remote VM using copy module. Before this create a simple text file in the home directory echo "Hi! Welcome to Ansible World" > ~/sample.txt and than following command.

```
ansible -m copy -a "src=/home/centos/sample.txt dest=/home/centos/"
k8s-workers -i hosts.yaml
```

Sample Output:

```
[centos@lab01-controller inventory]$ ansible -m copy -a "src=/home/centos/sample.txt dest=/home/centos/" k8s-workers -i
hosts.yaml
[WARNING]: Invalid characters were found in group names but not replaced, use -vvvv to see details
worker1 | CHANGED => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/bin/python3"
    },
    "changed": true,
    "checksum": "0b3a934763e8e4c6582305c77926028a26de095e",
    "dest": "/home/centos/sample.txt",
    "gid": 1000,
    "group": "centos",
    "md5sum": "aee78cfad1e2458238160672cf18d152",
    "mode": "0664",
    "owner": "centos",
    "secontext": "unconfined_u:object_r:user_home_t:s0",
    "size": 29,
    "src": "/home/centos/.ansible/tmp/ansible-tmp-1665451598.5953383-47813-17539238600786/source",
    "state": "file",
    "uid": 1000
```

Screenshot - 1

O Take a screenshot of the output of the command *history* that includes all your executed ansible commands from the above tasks.

Exercise 3. Working with Ansible Playbook

Ansible command line is great for executing a single task. But playbooks are more useful for multiple tasks. Playbooks are text files written in the YAML format. You can check http://www.yamllint.com/ or other alternatives to validate your YAML file.

The basic command to invoke any playbook is: ansible-playbook <path to your playbook>

Make sure that you are in the k8s-controller VM.

More about ansible-playbook command:

https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/cli/ansible-playbook.html

3.1. Playbook for file/directory operations

Following playbook will let you execute the above Ansible commands, e.g create new directory, new files, copy file from local machine to remote machine, print the message, etc.

Create your first playbook with following content.

vi play-1.yaml

```
---
- hosts: remote

tasks:
- name: what is the present working directory
command: pwd
register: out
- debug:
var: out.stdout_lines
- debug:
msg: "present working directory is: {{out.stdout_lines}}"

- name: See what is in the current directory
command: ls
register: lsout
- debug:
msg: "output of ls command: {{lsout.stdout_lines}}"

- name: create a new directory
```

```
file:
    path: /home/centos/mydir3
    state: directory
- name: Create an empty file inside new directory
  file:
    path: /home/centos/mydir3/emptyfile.txt
    state: touch
- name: copy the file from local vm to the remote vm
  copy:
   src: /home/centos/sample.txt
  dest: "/home/centos/mydir3/"
- name: "list of files inside that new directory"
  shell: "ls /home/centos/mydir3/"
 register: lsout
- debug:
  msg: "list of files inside that new directory: {{lsout.stdout_lines}}"
```

NOTE: Update the *remote* group name in the second line of above content (hosts: remote) based on your inventory file and host group name. Here, you can use either hosts: k8s-master or hosts: k8s-workers

Ansible playbook command: ansible-playbook play-1.yaml -i hosts.yaml Sample Output:

You may visit below source for more information

- https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/2.8/modules/list_of_files_modules.html
- https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/2.8/modules/file module.html#file-module

3.2. Package install/remove/reinstall/download operation

Below is a playbook example for working with package management (using yum module).

Note: Following things will work only on the centos Operating system. DIY: find out why.

vi install-packages.yaml

```
- hosts: remote
 gather facts: true
 become: true
 become_method: sudo
 tasks:
   - name: Install the latest version of vim editor
     yum:
       name: vim
       state: latest
    - name: Download the nano editor package but do not install it
     yum:
       name:
         - nano
       state: latest
       download_only: true
        download_dir: "/home/centos/"
    - name: Install the latest version of Apache
     yum:
       name: httpd
        state: latest
    - name: Start apache service
      service:
       name: httpd
        state: started
```

NOTE: Update the *remote* group name in the second line of above content (hosts: remote) based on your inventory file and host group name. Here, you can use either hosts: k8s-master or hosts: k8s-workers

Command: ansible-playbook install-packages.yaml -i hosts.yaml

Sample Output:

Now go to the browser (You should use IP address to access based on the host group name you mentioned) and test if apache web server is accessible, like below:

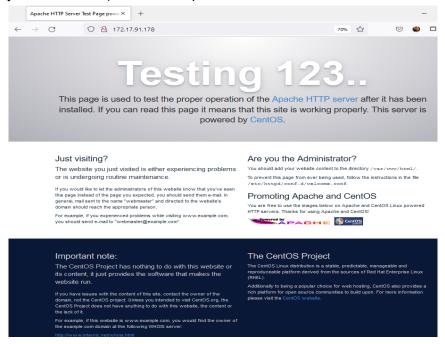


Figure out if you are unable to access the apache test page.

Hint:

- login to other VM(s) where you have installed the latest version of Apache and check if the httpd server
 is running
- Check the security group of the remote VM, if required.

Screenshot - 2

O Take a screenshot of output of the Apache server running in your browser and IP should be visible.

3.3. Playbook to stop and remove a package

Below playbook will stop the previously started apache server and remove/uninstall from the system *Note:* Following playbook will work only on the centos Operating system (DIY: find out why).

```
vi remove_package.yaml
```

```
---
- hosts: k8s-workers
gather_facts: true
become: true
become_method: sudo

tasks:
- name: Stop service httpd, if started
service:
    name: httpd
    state: stopped
- name: Remove apache package
yum:
    name: httpd
    state: absent
```

NOTE: Update the *remote* group name in the second line of above content (hosts: remote) based on your inventory file and host group name. Here, you can use either host: k8s-master or host: k8s-workers

Command: ansible-playbook remove_package.yaml -i hosts.yaml

Sample Output:

Exercise 4. Deploy flask application on k8s-cluster

In this task, you will use Dockerized flask application image from **Practice Session 2**, **Exercise 4**. and deploy on the k8s-cluster using ansible playbooks. Before this, we will try to deploy ngnix web server on k8s-cluster using ansible playbook.

4.1. Deploy your nginx service on k8 cluster

Create a playbook with following content.

```
- name: create
 hosts: k8s-master
 gather_facts: true
 become: true
 become_user: centos
 tasks:
   - name: Create target directory
      file:
      path=/home/centos/deploy_nginx/
       state=directory
    - name: create the deployment file
      lineinfile:
            path: /home/centos/deploy_nginx/deploy1.yaml
            create: yes
            line: |
              apiVersion: apps/v1
              kind: Deployment
              metadata:
                name: nginx-deployment
                labels:
                  app: nginx
              spec:
                replicas: 1
                selector:
                  matchLabels:
                    app: nginx
                template:
                  metadata:
                    labels:
                      app: nginx
                  spec:
                    containers:
                    - name: nginx
                      image: nginx:1.14.0
                      ports:
                      - containerPort: 80
   - name: create the deployment by running the kubectl command
      command: "kubectl create -f /home/centos/deploy_nginx/deploy1.yaml"
    - name: create the service file
```

```
lineinfile:
       path: /home/centos/deploy_nginx/service1.yaml
       create: yes
       line: |
          apiVersion: v1
         kind: Service
         metadata:
                name: nginx-service
                labels:
                  run: nginx-service
          spec:
                type: NodePort
                ports:
                - port: 80
                  protocol: TCP
                selector:
                  app: nginx
- name: create the service
 command: "kubectl create -f /home/centos/deploy_nginx/service1.yaml"
```

Note: Make sure that the alignment (space and tab character) is correct.

• Now execute the playbook: ansible-playbook install-app.yaml -i hosts.yaml

After Nginx app deployment, go to the master node and execute kubectl get services command to know the port number. (Here we assume that you have finished "Lab04: Working with Kubernetes" and you are using the same VMs to perform this exercise.)

Get the port number (as shown in below figure)

```
[centos@lab4-ansible-test-chinmaya-2 k8]$ kubectl get services
                                                              PORT(S)
NAME
                 TYPE
                             CLUSTER-IP
                                              EXTERNAL-IP
                                                                              AGE
                                                              443/TCP
kubernetes
                 ClusterIP
                              10.233.0.1
                                               <none>
                                                                              76m
                                                              80:31043/TCP
nginx-service
                 NodePort
                                               <none>
                                                                              5m28s
```

Now in the browser hit master node's external_ip with the obtained port number (as shown in above fig). Output may look like below.



Screenshot - 3

O Take a screenshot of output of the nginx server running in your browser and IP should be visible.

4.2. Deploy flask application on k8 cluster

In this task, you're going to deploy the flask application from **Practice Session 2** and **Exercise 4**. This task needs to be completed by yourself with minimum instructions noted below.

- Create the ansible playbook with name install-flask.yaml and it should be similar to install-app.yaml
- Add name, hosts, gather_facts, become, become_user
- Add the first task, i.e. Create target directory task to create directory deploy flask,
- Create the second task to create pv.yaml file, as shown below

```
- name: create the persistent volume file
 lineinfile:
        path: /home/centos/deploy_flask/pv.yaml
        create: yes
        line: |
          apiVersion: v1
          kind: PersistentVolume
          metadata:
            name: pvolume
            labels:
              type: local
            storageClassName: manual
            capacity:
              storage: 5Gi
            accessModes:
            - ReadWriteOnce
            hostPath:
              path: "/mnt/data"
```

```
nodeAffinity:
    required:
    nodeSelectorTerms:
    - matchExpressions:
    - key: kubernetes.io/hostname
        operator: In
        values:
        - node1
```

Add the third task to create persistent volume using kubectl command

```
- name: create the persistent volume
command: "kubectl create -f /home/centos/deploy_flask/pv.yaml"
```

 Add fourth task, i.e. create the deployment file task as same as in install-app.yaml from the above exercise (<u>Exercise 4.1</u>), with following hints.

```
- name: create the deployment file
  lineinfile:
        path: /home/centos/deploy_flask/deploy1.yaml
         create: yes
         line: |
           apiVersion: apps/v1
          kind: Deployment
          metadata:
             name: flask-deployment
             labels:
               app: flask
           spec:
             replicas: 1
             selector:
               matchLabels:
                 app: flask
             template:
               metadata:
                 labels:
                   app: flask
               spec:
                 containers:
                 - name: flask
                   image: shivupoojar/testprac2
                   ports:
```

```
- containerPort: 5000
        lifecycle:
          postStart:
            exec:
              command: ["cp", "/data/CO2.csv", "/app/CO2.csv"]
        volumeMounts:
        - mountPath: "/data"
          name: data-storage-volume
      volumes:
        - name: data-storage-volume
          persistentVolumeClaim:
            claimName: vclaim
apiVersion: v1
kind: PersistentVolumeClaim
metadata:
  name: vclaim
 namespace: default
spec:
  accessModes:
  - ReadWriteOnce
  resources:
    requests:
      storage: 1Gi
  storageClassName: manual
```

- Update image with your flask app image name
- Update fifth task, i.e. create the deployment by running the kubectl command task.
 - Update the path to the yaml. The path should be the same as the path of the previous (or second) task.
- Update sixth task, i.e. create the service file task.
 - Update path value,
 - Update service name, as per your choice (name:service-flask,)
 - Update port and targetPort number from 80 to 5000
 - Update selector i.e app:flask as well
- Update the kubectl command accordingly, in the seventh task, i.e. create the service task.
- Run the playbook ansible-playbook install-flask.yaml -i hosts.yaml

Finally, when the playbook is executed (on k8s-master) you should see the sensor data on the web page.

Screenshot - 4

Take a screenshot of a webpage where your name and IP address are clearly seen.

Exercise 5. Working with gitlab, ansible and k8s-cluster

In this task, you're going to automate the deployment of an application on k8s-cluster using gitlab and ansible.

- Create a project in the gitlab with name lab06-Ansible_k8s_deployment under group

 Devops2022fall/students/devops2022Fall-<lastname>-<studyCode>
- Install the gitlab-runner on k8s-controller virtual machine
 - o Download the gitlab runner curl -LJO
 "https://gitlab-runner-downloads.s3.amazonaws.com/latest/rpm/gitlab-r
 unner amd64.rpm"
 - o Install the runner: sudo rpm -i gitlab-runner amd64.rpm
 - Get the token for Gitlab runner registration
 - Go to your lab06-Ansible k8s deployment Gitlab project
 - Go to Setting --> CI/CD → Expand Runner
 - Note down Registration token
 - Registering the Gitlab runner to your project.
 - **Configure** the runner using sudo gitlab-runner register command. Provide the following details
 - Enter the GitLab instance URL: https://gitlab.cs.ut.ee/
 - o Enter the registration token: as noted in the earlier step
 - Enter a description for the runner.(ex. ansible)
 - o Enter tags for the runner (comma-separated): build, deploy
 - o Enter optional maintenance note for the runner: Press Enter
 - Enter an executor: It should be docker (not shell)
 - o You can provide a default docker image, e.g. ubuntu:18.04
 - Now you can see the registered runner in your gitlab account in Settings \rightarrow CI/CD \rightarrow Runners.
 - Make sure that you have disabled "Enable shared runners for this
 project" option, under Settings → CI/CD → Runners option, else your job
 might get assigned to the shared runner.
 - Sample runner:



- Upload the ansible-playbook file **install-flask.yaml** (you created in previous Ex 4), Inventory file **hosts.yaml** and **ssh** key file to lab06-Ansible_k8s_deployment Gitlab project.
- Create a .gitlab-ci.yml file (the way you did in <u>Lab04</u>) and add the ansible playbook command you used in the previous exercise to the "scripts" key..
 It should look like:

Change the seatis pem to your ssh key file name

```
stages:
    - deploy

deploy:
    stage: deploy
    image:
        name: williamyeh/ansible:ubuntu18.04

variables:
        ANSIBLE_HOST_KEY_CHECKING: "False"

script:
        - mkdir .ssh
        - cp ./seatis.pem .ssh
        - chmod  400 .ssh/seatis.pem
        - ansible-playbook ./install-flask.yaml --private-key=.ssh/seatis.pem -i
./hosts.yaml
    allow_failure: true
```

If you get error related to private key file while executing pipeline, than modify the path of ssh key file like ansible_ssh_private_key_file=.ssh/seatis.pem (seatis.pem should be replaced with your key file name) in the hosts.yaml in your gitlab project

Finally, when the playbook is executed (on k8s-master) you should see the sensor data on the web page

Screenshot - 5

Take a screenshot of an executed pipeline like shown below.

Deliverables

1- Gather all the screenshots

- Screenshot 1
- Screenshot 2
- Screenshot 3
- Screenshot 4
- Screenshot 5

2- zip the all the ansible-playbook and inventory(hosts.yaml) files from Exercise 3, 4 and 5 and all the screenshots.

3- Upload the zip file to the course wiki page.

4- You may <u>Stop</u> the Virtual Machines and you can start using the same in the next **practice session**.

Don't delete your VMs